MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C. April 30, 1952

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1952, was held in its Office in the Interior Department Building on Wednesday, April 30, 1952. The following members were present:

Mr. Finley, Chairman,
Mr. Neild,
Prof. Hudnut,
Prof. Belluschi,
Mr. Peets,
Mr. deWeldon,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on March 28, 1952, were approved.

2. LEGISLATION AS TO MARINE MEMORIAL: Under date of April 18, 1952, Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, addressed the following letter to Chairman Finley:

> Dear Mr. Finley:
>
> Enclosed herein is a copy of Public Law 157 of the Eightieth Congress, authorizing the erection in the District of Columbia of a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars and a copy of a letter sent to me by Mr. Ralph Wray, Executive Secretary of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, Inc., suggesting certain amendments to the law.
>
> Since the law provides that the design and site of such memorial shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, the Joint Committee would appreciate your views and comments on the amendments proposed by Mr. Wray.

The Commission considered the matter. Mr. deWeldon said that, unless the law is amended, it will expire on July 1, 1952, and he recommended that the amendments suggested by Mr. Wray (Exhibit A) be adopted, as follows:

1. In lines 3 and 4 of the act, strike "Marine Corps League Incorporated," and insert "Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation."
2. In line 5 of the act, insert after "District of Columbia" the words "or immediate vicinity."
3. In line 13 strike out "five" and insert "ten."

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C. April 30, 1932

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1932, was held in the Office in the Interior Department Building on Wednesday, April 30, 1932. The following members were present:

Mr. Finley, Chairman,
Mr. Mead,
Prof. Hewitt,
Prof. Bellucchi,
Mr. Peets,
Mr. Gehrlcon,

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on March 28, 1932, were approved.

2. INCORPORATION AS TO MARINE MEMORIAL: Under date of April 18, 1932, Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, addressed the following letter to Chairman Finley:

Dear Mr. Finley:

Enclosed herein is a copy of Public Law 157 of the Eightieth Congress, authorizing the erection in the District of Columbia of a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars and a copy of a letter sent to me by Mr. Ralph Mott, Executive Secretary of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, Inc., suggesting certain amendments to the law.

Since the law provides that the design and site of such memorial shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, the Joint Committee would appreciate your views and comments on the amendments proposed by Mr. Mott.

The Commission considered the matter. Mr. Gehrlcon said that, unless the law is amended, it will expire on July 1, 1932, and he recommended that the amendments suggested by Mr. Mott (Exhibit A) be adopted, as follows:

1. In lines 3 and 4 of the act, strike "Marine Corps Reserve Incorporated," and insert "Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation."
2. In line 5 of the act, insert after "District of Columbia" the words "or immediate vicinity."
3. In line 12 strike out "five" and insert "ten."

The Commission concurred, and Senator Green was informed accordingly (Exhibit B).

3. GANDHI MEMORIAL: Under date of April 9, 1952, Chairman Finley received a letter from Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, 40 East 49th Street, New York City (Exhibit C), advising that "Our Committee will accept the Barnard Hill Park site for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi."

Mr. Singh asked that, instead of restricting the area for the Memorial to 5 acres, the area be increased so as to be "between five and six acres."

The Secretary reported that he took up this matter with the Director of the National Park Service, who agreed to Mr. Singh's request by letter as follows:

April 29, 1952

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have considered the contents of Mr. J. J. Singh's letter of April 9, to Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, which you transmitted on April 24, requesting that the National Park Service consider enlarging the original five acre tract of land at Barnard Hill as a site for the erection of a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Realizing that a memorial which has not yet been designed should not be restricted and controlled too rigidly by a specific area, please convey to Mr. Singh the willingness on the part of the National Park Service to provide an adequate site not to exceed six acres for this memorial. It is understood, of course, that if less than six acres or less than the five acres originally indicated are sufficient, the National Park Service will cooperate with Mr. Singh's organization in determining the actual area so assigned.

Sincerely yours
Conrad L. Wirth,
Director.

The Commission concurred in the letter from Director Wirth of the National Park Service. Accordingly, a letter was sent to the Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, United States Senate, recommending approval of the site by his Committee, as required by Public Law 309, 81st Congress (Exhibit D).

Mr. Singh was informed of this action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts (Exhibit E).

The Commission concurred, and Senator Green was informed accordingly (Exhibit B).

3. GANDHI MEMORIAL: Under date of April 9, 1952, Chairman Finley received a letter from Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, 40 East 49th Street, New York City (Exhibit C), advising that "Our Committee will accept the Barnard Hill Park site for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi."

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Realizing that a memorial which has not yet been designed should not be restricted and controlled too rigidly by a specific area, please convey to Mr. Singh the willingness on the part of the National Park Service to provide an adequate site not to exceed six acres for this memorial. It is understood, of course, that at least that six acres or less than the five acres originally indicated are sufficient, the National Park Service will cooperate with Mr. Singh's organization in determining the actual area so designated.

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Mr. Singh was informed of this action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts (Exhibit E).

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON GOVERNMENT AND ART: The Secretary reported that, pursuant to action taken at the March meeting of the Commission, he had sent out 14 letters to heads of Departments and Agencies of the Government asking for a report with regard to procedure followed by them in employing artists. Some of these have replied that generally they employ artists by contract. It is expected that most of these Departments and Agencies will have replied by the time of the next meeting of the Commission.

5. GARAGE-OFFICE BUILDING, 13TH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.: The Secretary reported that a representative of the Kass Realty Company telephoned, stating that they are awaiting a ruling by the Zoning Commission as to whether or not 14 stories will be permitted in a building 130 feet in height, instead of 12 stories allowed at present; a Hearing on the subject was held by the Zoning Commission recently. If granted, a design for the building is to be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect, accompanied by Mr. Harry N. Peterson, Librarian, and Mr. Alvan C. Chaney, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, presented a design which proposes a new Public Library building at 9th and K Streets, N. W., to surround the existing Public Library building at that location.

Mr. Peterson made a detailed oral report on the subject, in which he explained the need of a central library building at that location, in preference to one begun along Constitution Avenue between Fourth and Sixth Streets, N. W. It is proposed not only to surround the existing old building, but use the entire site, comprising two squares, and eliminate the existing park feature.

The existing building was made possible by a gift of $375,000 from Andrew Carnegie many years ago; it was designed by Ackerman & Ross in the "classical" style of architecture; it was completed late in 1902 and occupied in January, 1903.

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON GOVERNMENT AND ART: The Secretary reported that, pursuant to action taken at the March meeting of the Commission, he had sent out 17 letters to heads of Departments and Agencies of the Government asking for a report with regard to procedure followed by them in employing artists. Some of these have replied that generally they employ artists by contract. It is expected that most of these Departments and Agencies will have replied by the time of the next meeting of the Commission.

5. GARAGE-OFFICE BUILDING, 12TH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.: The Secretary reported that a representative of the Kass Realty Company telephoned, stating that they are awaiting a ruling by the Zoning Commission as to whether or not 14 stories will be permitted in a building 130 feet in height, instead of 12 stories allowed at present; a Hearing on the subject was held by the Zoning Commission recently. If granted, a design for the building is to be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Conrad A. Poe, Municipal Architect, accompanied by Mr. Harry H. Peterson, Librarian, and Mr. Alvan C. Chaney, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, presented a design which proposes a new Public Library building at 9th and K Streets, N. W., to surround the existing Public Library building at that location.

Mr. Peterson made a detailed oral report on the subject, in which he explained the need of a central library building at that location, in preference to one begun along Constitution Avenue between Fourth and Ninth Streets, N. W. It is proposed not only to surround the existing old building, but use the entire site, comprising two squares, and eliminate the existing park feature.

The existing building was made possible by a gift of $375,000 from Andrew Carnegie many years ago; it was designed by Ackerman & Ross in the "classical" style of architecture; it was completed late in 1900 and occupied in January, 1903.

The Commission were considerably disturbed over the project, and decided that it should have very careful study before a report is made on it. There were several elements involved:

1. The idea of taking up park land was deplored. It is a Government reservation shown in the L'Enfant Plan, in the center of which a building was built fifty years ago, leaving though considerable park area. Now it is proposed to cover the entire two squares from Seventh to Ninth, facing K Street with one building, in the contemporary style of architecture, surround the old existing library building and in time demolish it.

2. The design for the new building was considered to be unsatisfactory.

3. The idea of abandoning the development begun ten years ago for a Central Library at 499 Pennsylvania Avenue, leaving an unsightly incomplete project, was objected to strenuously. The Commission asked for further information as to why the site is not suitable now. As to the new ideas of Librarian Peterson for arranging a library, the Commission felt that if the ideas presented ten years ago by his predecessor are now antiquated, the same might be said of Mr. Peterson's ideas ten years from now.

The Commission requested that the Municipal Architect furnish the Commission a set of drawings for the 499 Pennsylvania Avenue site. A copy of the discussion is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes(Exhibit F). The project is to have further consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

7. WOMEN'S BUREAU, POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Coe presented a design for a new building for the Women's Bureau of the Police Department, to be built along North Capitol Street, between K and L Streets, Northwest. He said the first floor is for clerks and files, with space for interviewing offices. The second floor is for single rooms for prisoners, which will be maximum security cells. Prof. Belluschi asked about the kind of windows. Mr. Coe replied, "They will be security-type windows with a screen inside. We will use steel sash with the detention screen inside." On the third floor is an additional room with kitchen and dining room.

After inspecting the design, the Commission approved it (Exhibit G).

8. Margaret ~~Mary~~ MURRAY Washington VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Coe presented

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The Commission requested that the Municipal Architect furnish the Commission a set of drawings for the 499 Pennsylvania Avenue site. A copy of the discussion is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes(Exhibit F). The project is to have further consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

7. WOMEN'S BUREAU, POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Doe presented a design for a new building for the Women's Bureau of the Police Department, to be built along North Capitol Street, between K and L Streets, Northwest. He said the first floor is for clerks and files, with space for interviewing officers. The second floor is for single rooms for prisoners, which will be maximum security cells. Prof. Pollaczek asked about the kind of windows. Mr. Doe replied, "They will be security-type windows with a screen inside. He will use steel sash with the detention screen inside." On the third floor is an additional room with kitchen and dining room.

After inspecting the design, the Commission approved it (Exhibit G).

8. Margaret Mary Washington VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Doe presented

a design for this building and said, "At the present time, this is the existing building on "O" Street between North Capitol and First Streets, N. W. It is proposed to provide an extension for classrooms and a gymnasium. We have attempted to carry out the same design. This building (indicating) was built first; this wing was put on ten years ago. We are now proposing a similar duplication of the wing. I would like to leave these here for your consideration. We will buy the additional land in this block. It is a vocational school for colored girls.

Mr. Coe said to secure the additional land will involve an expenditure of $500,000. It will involve buying the headquarters building of the Animal Rescue League.

After Mr. Coe left the room, the Commission considered the design further. Professor Hudnut was not in favor of "duplicating styles" and felt that the new extension should ignore the old work entirely. "The courts are more important than the duplication of design. The spaces are what bring it together."

Mr. Peets suggested straightening out the parapet line and simplifying the entrance. Professor Belluschi recommended that the design be restudied.

During the noon hour the Commission recommended that the design be referred to Mr. Neild for a conference with Mr. Coe concerning it during the afternoon.

Mr. Neild and the Secretary met with Mr. Coe in the Commission Room at 3:00 p.m., when Mr. Neild called his attention to the criticisms made by the Commission. Mr. Coe expressed his appreciation of these criticisms and will submit a revised design at the next meeting of the Commission.

9. CENTRAL DENTAL LABORATORY, WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER: Under date of April 28, 1952, the following letter was received, together with design, from Colonel Alan J. McCutchen, District Engineer:

"Inclosed herewith, for your information and files, is a copy of a rendering of the Central Dental Laboratory proposed for construction

a design for this building and said, "At the present time, this is the existing building on "O" Street between North Capitol and First Streets, N. W. It is proposed to provide an extension for classrooms and a gymnasium. We have attempted to carry out the same design. This building (indicating) was built first; this wing was put on ten years ago. We are now proposing a similar duplication of the wing. I would like to leave these here for your consideration. We will buy the additional land in this block. It is a vocational school for colored girls.

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Mr. Meild and the Secretary met with Mr. Coe in the Commission Room at 2:00 p.m., when Mr. Meild called his attention to the criticisms made by the Commission. Mr. Coe expressed his appreciation of these criticisms and will submit a revised design at the next meeting of the Commission.

9. CENTRAL DENTAL LABORATORY, NAVAL AND ARMY MEDICAL CENTER: Under date of April 28, 1932, the following letter was received, together with design, from Colonel Alan J. McCubbrey, District Engineer:

"Inclosed herewith, for your information and files, is a copy of a rendering of the Central Dental Laboratory proposed for construction

at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington 21, D. C.

"The proposed building will be located at the intersection of Hostess House Drive and Aspen Drive, adjacent to existing building No 83A. The building will be of permanent construction with red brick faced masonry bearing walls on concrete footings. Copings and exterior window trim will be limestone. Steps will be flagstone. Retaining walls will be red brick to match the building.

"Any comments you may wish to make concerning the proposed building will be appreciated."

The Commission inspected the design and approved it (Exhibit H).

10. BUST OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: Mr. Finley presented the following letter received by him from the Secretary of the Interior:

April 29, 1952

My Dear Mr. Finley:

On December 10, 1951, we informed you that steps were being taken to effectuate your suggestions with regard to the bust of the late President Roosevelt which is to be installed at Grand Coulee Dam. The model of this bust is now in my office. I would appreciate it very much if your Commission could inspect this model at its next meeting on April 30.

Sincerely yours,
Oscar L. Chapman,
Secretary of the Interior.

The Commission visited the Office of the Secretary of the Interior at noon and saw the model. It received the particular attention of Mr. deWeldon. The Commission felt a considerable improvement had been made by the sculptor, Frederic F. Littman, of Portland, Oregon; much more to the likeness of the late President Roosevelt.

Mr. John P. Robertson, of the Water and Power Commission, Department of the Interior, was present during the discussion. He presented a drawing showing the location of the bust, and indicating that it would be about six feet high (in bronze) mounted on a pedestal about five feet high, at a location overlooking the lake. The Commission approved the model (Exhibit I).

11. ADVERTISING SIGN, NATIONAL THEATER: The Commission considered Application No. 1486, submitted by the Director of Inspection for a sign at the National Theater, 1325 E Street, N. W. The sign is to be 35 feet long by 2 1/2 feet wide.

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11. ADVERTISING SIGN, NATIONAL THEATER: The Commission considered Application No. 1496, submitted by the Director of Inspection for a sign at the National Theater, 1329 E Street, N. W. The sign is to be 21 feet long by 2 1/2 feet wide.

The Commission took note of the fact that their Regulations allow only 25 square feet for an advertising sign in the Shipstead-Luce Act area, and therefore disapproved erection of the new sign. However, the Commission advised the Director of Inspection that there would be no objection to relocating an old existing sign, which is on the wall of the building, to a new location over the entrance of the theater (Exhibit J).

12. PORTRAIT OF DR. R. D. W. CONNOR: Under date of March 26, 1952, the Commission received the following letter, addressed to the Chairman:

> Dear Mr. Finley:
>
> The portrait of R. D. W. Connor, the first Archivist of the United States, about which the Archivist wrote to you on September 21, 1950, and to which you replied on September 26, 1950, will be completed and ready for delivery on April 7, 1952.
>
> In the contract with Mrs. Nash it was stipulated that the "acceptance of the painting will be subject to the approval of the Archivist's Committee and the Fine Arts Commission." I am writing now to ascertain whether the Commission will wish to view the painting at the artist's studio, at the National Archives Building hung in place in the Conference Room, or at the National Gallery of Art.
>
> Your early advice in regard to this matter will be appreciated.
>
> Sincerely yours,
> Robert H. Bahmer,
> Acting Archivist of the United States

The Commission inspected the portrait at the National Gallery of Art during the noon hour. It measures about 4 x 3 feet, mounted in a gold frame, and was considered to be a good likeness of Dr. Connor. The painter, Mrs. Arthur Nash, painted the portrait from photographs, though she is a friend of the family.

The Commission approved the portrait (Exhibit K).

13. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission inspected several objects of art, presented by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and approved them (Exhibit L).

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Commission decided to hold their next meeting in Washington on Monday, May 19, 1952.

The Commission had luncheon at the National Gallery of Art, and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The Commission took note of the fact that their Regulations allow only 25 square feet for an advertising sign in the Shipstead-Luce Act area, and therefore disapproved erection of the new sign. However, the Commission advised the Director of Inspection that there would be no objection to relocating an old existing sign, which is on the wall of the building, to a new location over the entrance of the theater (Exhibit J).

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Your early advice in regard to this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Robert H. Palmer,
Acting Archivist of the United States

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MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
HENDERSON HALL - U. S. MARINE CORPS HDQRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 March 1952

Honorable Theodore Green
Chairman, Joint Committee on the Library
Senate - U. S. Capitol
Washington D. C.

My dear Senator Green:

I enclose herewith a print of Public Law 157 of the 80th Congress, authorizing the erection in the District of Columbia of a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars.

Much progress has been accomplished in the period between the time of approval of this joint resolution and the present; but, due to some unforeseen events, there are two or three slight modifications which would bring the act into focus with current realities.

First, the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation has been formed to undertake the raising of funds necessary for the erection of the memorial. Many members of the Foundation are affiliated with the Marine Corps League, Incorporated, the agency named in the authorizing legislation. However, it was deemed advisable to set up an altogether independent group, dedicated specifically and entirely to the project of carrying out the scope of the law. It is this group which now has accumulated a treasury and is proceeding with the fund-raising.

Next, public ground in the District of Columbia is approaching an almost irreducible minimum, certainly with respect to any area contemplated by our monument. Thus, there is some expectation that we may be permitted to place our memorial on Columbia Island in the Boundary Channel near the Arlington Memorial Bridge. This suggestion seems to have the tentative approval of the Department of the Interior.

Finally, inasmuch as there was an organizational delay in forming just the right kind of group which could raise the not inconsiderable sum which will be necessary to finance this project, we feel that we are not just yet in a position to fulfill the five-year commencement date imposed by the law. An extension of the present date is almost imperative.

In order to adjust the original joint resolution to make it compatible with new conditions the following amendments are respectfully suggested: in lines 3 and 4 of the act strike "Marine Corps League, Incorporated," and insert "Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation;" in line 5 of the act insert after "District of Columbia" the words "or immediate vicinity;" and in line 13 strike out "five" and insert "ten."

The Government will be put to no expense by the adoption of these amendments, just as the original act required no Federal funds.

A similar letter is being directed to Honorable Ken Regan, Chairman, Committee on the Library.

Respectfully,

RALPH WRAY
Executive Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
HENDERSON HALL - U. S. MARINE CORPS BASES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 March 1942

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irman, Joint Committee on the Library
ate - U. S. Capitol
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Respectfully,

RALPH WEAY
Executive Secretary

EXHIBIT A

[PUBLIC LAW 157—80TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 196—1ST SESSION]

[S. J. Res. 113]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the erection in the District of Columbia of a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to grant authority to the Marine Corps League, Incorporated, to erect a memorial on public grounds in the District of Columbia in honor and in commemoration of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country.

SEC. 2. The design and the site of such memorial shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, and the United States shall be put to no expense in or by the erection thereof.

SEC. 3. The authority conferred pursuant to this joint resolution shall lapse unless (1) the erection of such memorial is commenced within five years from the date of passage of this joint resolution, and (2) prior to its commencement funds are certified available in an amount sufficient, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, to insure completion of the memorial.

Approved July 1, 1947.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Senator Green:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on April 30, 1952, I brought to their attention your letter of April 18, enclosing a copy of Public Law 157 - 80th Congress concerning the Marine Corps Memorial, together with a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Ralph Wray, Executive Secretary of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, Incorporated,

The Commission concur in the amendments to Public Law 157, recommended by Mr. Wray, namely:

1. In lines 3 and 4 of the act strike "Marine Corps League, Incorporated", and insert "Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation."

2. In line 5 of the act insert after "District of Columbia" the words "or immediate vicinity."

3. In line 13 strike out "five" and insert "ten."

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
The United States Senate,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT B

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Senator Green:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on April 30, 1952, I brought to their attention your letter of April 18, enclosing a copy of Public Law 157 - 80th Congress concerning the Marine Corps Memorial, together with a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Ralph Wray, Executive Secretary of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, Incorporated.

The Commission concur in the amendments to Public Law 157, recommended by Mr. Wray, namely:

1. In lines 3 and 4 of the act strike "Marine Corps League, Incorporated", and insert "Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation."

2. In line 5 of the act insert after "District of Columbia" the words "or immediate vicinity."

3. In line 13 strike out "five" and insert "ten."

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
The United States Senate,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT B

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 East 49th Street
New York 17, N. Y.

April 9, 1952

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

After a trip around the world of five months and ten days I returned to New York last week. I left New York on October 26, 1951.

I am exceedingly sorry to tell you that your letter of October 26, which reached our office soon after my departure, was not forwarded to me for action. We have had a change in the personnel, and somewhere down the line the office secretary neglected to forward your letter to me. That is why only now I an able to acknowledge your letter and answer the points contained therein.

I am glad to receive assurances from the National Park Serivce, in their letter of October 24, that "any recreation building developed by the Park Service would be at a considerably lower elevation and not more than two stories in height."

I am also very much gratified to note from your letter of October 26 that inasmuch as "designs for structures erected by the National Park Service in the city of Washington are regularly submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice; therefore, the Commission feels that you would need have no fear that there will be any intrusion on the five acres of ground to be allotted to your organization for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi."

In view of these assurances I wish to state that our Committee will accept the Barnard Hill Park site for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

However, there is one suggestion which I trust will be acceptable both to you and to the National Park Service. I suggest that instead of restricting the area to five acres and no more, the area should be between five and six acres. The reason for my suggestion is simple: when the area for the Memorial will be marked off it is quite possible that for topographical reasons an additional quarter of an acre or more may be considered important and desirable to be added on to the Memorial site. And if the Joint Committee on the Library definitely states the site to be only five acres, then it would be very difficult to ask for any additional land at a later stage.

Therefore I respectfully suggest that in your recommendation to the Joint Committee on the Library it should be mentioned that between five and six acres be allotted for the Memorial.

I trust that you will be able to make this recommendation to the Joint Committee on the Library at your earliest convenience, because now that I am back I would like to finalize the allotment of the site.

EXHIBIT C

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 East 49th Street
New York 17, N. Y.

April 9, 1952

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

After a trip around the world of five months and ten days I returned to New York last week. I left New York on October 26, 1951.

I am exceedingly sorry to tell you that your letter of October 26, which reached our office soon after my departure, was not forwarded to me for action. We have had a change in the personnel, and somewhere down the line the office secretary neglected to forward your letter to me. That is why only now I am able to acknowledge your letter and answer the points contained therein.

I am glad to receive assurances from the National Park Service, in their letter of October 24, that "any recreation building developed by the Park Service would be at a considerably lower elevation and not more than two stories in height."

I am also very much gratified to note from your letter of October 26 that inasmuch as "designs for structures erected by the National Park Service in the city of Washington are regularly submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice; therefore, the Commission feels that you would need have no fear that there will be any intrusion on the five acres of ground to be allotted to your organization for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi."

In view of these assurances I wish to state that our Committee will accept the Barnard Hill Park site for the proposed Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

However, there is one suggestion which I trust will be acceptable both to you and to the National Park Service. I suggest that instead of restricting the area to five acres and no more, the area should be between five and six acres. The reason for my suggestion is simple: when the area for the Memorial will be marked off it is quite possible that for topographical reasons an additional quarter of an acre or more may be considered important and desirable to be added on to the Memorial site. And if the Joint Committee on the Library definitely states the site to be only five acres, then it would be very difficult to ask for any additional land at a later stage.

Therefore I respectfully suggest that in your recommendation to the Joint Committee on the Library it should be mentioned that between five and six acres be allotted for the Memorial.

I trust that you will be able to make this recommendation to the Joint Committee on the Library at your earliest convenience, because now that I am back I would like to finalize the allotment of the site.

EXHIBIT C

Once again regretting that your letter has not been acknowledged for all this time, and with my best personal regards,

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
J. J. Singh

JJS:bf

Once again regretting that your letter has not been acknowledged for all this time, and with my best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Yours
J. J. Singh

JJS:bf

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Senator Green:

I am pleased to inform you that at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on April 30, 1952, the Commission approved a location for the proposed memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in Barnard Hill Park (in the vicinity of Eastern Avenue and Randolph Street, N. E.) in an area which stands highest on the hill, not to exceed six acres, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, as required by Public Law 309 - 81st Congress. It is understood, of course, that the allotment of this area to the India League of America is also subject to the approval of plans for the development of the site and for the building to be erected. Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, has been informed, accordingly.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which we have received from the National Park Service, granting the location for the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at the Barnard Hill Park site.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington D. C.

Enclosure

EXHIBIT D

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Senator Green:

I am pleased to inform you that at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on April 30, 1952, the Commission approved a location for the proposed memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in Barnard Hill Park (in the vicinity of Eastern Avenue and Randolph Street, N. E.) in an area which stands highest on the hill, not to exceed six acres, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, as required by Public Law 309 - 81st Congress. It is understood, of course, that the allotment of this area to the India League of America is also subject to the approval of plans for the development of the site and for the building to be erected. Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, has been informed, accordingly.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which we have received from the National Park Service, granting the location for the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at the Barnard Hill Park site.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Encl.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington D. C.

Enclosure

EXHIBIT D

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington D. C.

April 29, 1952

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have considered the contents of Mr. J. J. Singh's letter of April 9, to Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, which you transmitted on April 24 requesting that the National Park Service consider enlarging the original five acre tract of land at Barnard Hill as a site for the erection of a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Realizing that a memorial which has not yet been designed should not be restricted and controlled too rigidly by a specified area, please convey to Mr. Singh the willingness on the part of the National Park Service to provide an adequate site not to exceed six acres for this memorial. It is understood, of course, that if less than six acres or less than the five acres originally indicated are sufficient, the National Park Service will cooperate with Mr. Singh's organization in determining the actual area so assigned.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
Conrad L. Wirth
Director

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington D. C.

April 29, 1952

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have considered the contents of Mr. J. J. Singh's letter of April 9, to Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, which you transmitted on April 24 requesting that the National Park Service consider enlarging the original five acre tract of land at Barnard Hill as a site for the erection of a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Realizing that a memorial which has not yet been designed should not be restricted and controlled too rigidly by a specified area, please convey to Mr. Singh the willingness on the part of the National Park Service to provide an adequate site not to exceed six acres for this memorial. It is understood, of course, that if less than six acres or less than the five acres originally indicated are sufficient, the National Park Service will cooperate with Mr. Singh's organization in determining the actual area so assigned.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
Conrad L. Wirth
Director

[Public Law 309—81st Congress]

[Chapter 587—1st Session]

[H. J. Res. 295]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To erect a memorial to the memory of Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Whereas India's greatest leader, Mohandas K. Gandhi, has met the martyr's death; and

Whereas the beloved Gandhi throughout his life had brought to the people of India and peoples everywhere the meaning of a selfless devotion to peace, and with it the gift of his own unbounded spiritual wealth; and

Whereas Mohandas Gandhi's uncompromisable strength led India to the independence for which it had sorely struggled; and

Whereas the impact of his personality upon history is undeniable; and

Whereas in consideration of the cordial relations existing between the people of the United States and the people of India, and in the hope that a memorial to his memory in the United States may further those cordial cultural and spiritual relations between these two countries, and in the further hope that such a memorial will awaken and keep alive in people everywhere the sense of their individual dignity and independence as well as an abhorrence for civil, religious, and communal strife anywhere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That authority is hereby granted to the India League of America, or any other organization which may be organized for this purpose, to erect, within five years from the date of the approval of this resolution, a memorial testifying to the wisdom and leadership of Mohandas K. Gandhi, as philosopher and statesman, in the city of Washington, on such grounds as may be designated by the Fine Arts Commission, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library. The model of the memorial so to be erected shall be first approved by the said Commission and by the Joint Committee on the Library, the same to be presented to the people of the United States without cost to the Government of the United States: *Provided*, That the cost of custodian maintenance of the edifice contemplated by this Act will be borne perpetually by the organization undertaking its original construction.

Approved September 28, 1949.

COPY FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

Album of 45 sketches, by Riza Abbasi. Each mounted separately. Persian, 17th century.

Painting: Dead Christ and Apostles, by Riza Abbasi. Persian, 17th century. After a painting by Perugino.

Porcelain plate. Japanese, Kakiemon, late 17th century.

Porcelain bowl with lacquered wood cover. Japanese, Kakiemon, late 17th century.

Brown lacquer box, in two sections, with tray and lid. Signed. Japanese, 18th century.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

April 30, 1952 — David E. Finley
For the Commission of Fine Arts

April 21, 1952 — Katharine N. Rhoades
Katharine N. Rhoades

COPY FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katherine M. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4, of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

Album of 45 sketches, by Riza Abbasi.
Each mounted separately. Persian,
17th century.

Painting: Dead Christ and Apostles, by
Riza Abbasi. Persian, 17th century.
After a painting by Perugino.

Porcelain plate. Japanese. Kakiemon,
late 17th century.

Porcelain bowl with lacquered wood
cover. Japanese. Kakiemon, late 17th
century.

Brown lacquer box, in two sections, with
tray and lid. Signed. Japanese. 18th
century.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

April 30, 1952 David E. Finley
For the Commission of Fine Arts

April 21, 1952 Katherine M. Rhoades
Katherine M. Rhoades

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS ✱ Washington 25, D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Mr. Singh:

In further reference to your letter of April 9, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting, held on April 30, 1952, approved the location of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Barnard Hill Park in an area which stands highest on the hill and to comprise not to exceed six acres.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act of Congress on the subject, I have sent a letter to the Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, confirming this action. A copy of the letter sent to Senator Green is enclosed as also a copy of a letter received from the Honorable Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, from which you will observe that the National Park Service agrees to allow not to exceed six acres for this memorial.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. J. J. Singh, President,
India League of America,
40 East 49th Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

EXHIBIT E

EXHIBIT E

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS • Washington 25, D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Mr. Singh:

In further reference to your letter of April 9, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting, held on April 30, 1952, approved the location of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Harewood Hill Park in an area which stands highest on the hill and to comprise not to exceed six acres.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act of Congress on the subject, I have sent a letter to the Honorable Theodore F. Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, confirming this action. A copy of the letter sent to Senator Green is enclosed as also a copy of a letter received from the Honorable Conrad E. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, from which you will observe that the National Park Service agrees to allow not to exceed six acres for this memorial.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Encl.
David J. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. J. G. Singh, President,
India League of America,
40 East 49th Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Copy of Discussion

See Mimeograph Records No. 20723

To be added later

EXHIBIT F

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 30, 1952, approved the design which you submitted for a proposed building to house the Womens Bureau, Metropolitan Police Department, on North Capitol between K and L Streets, Northwest.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

May 1, 1952

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 30, 1952, approved the design which you submitted for a proposed building to house the Women's Bureau, Metropolitan Police Department, on North Capitol between K and L Streets, Northwest.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Colonel McCutchen:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the design which you submitted for the proposed Central Dental Laboratory at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Colonel Alan J. McCutchen,
Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer,
First and Douglas Streets, N. W.,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT H

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1932

Dear Colonel McCutcheon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the design which you submitted for the proposed Central Dental Laboratory at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Colonel Alan J. McCutcheon,
Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer,
First and Douglas Streets, N. W.,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT H

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts, during their meeting on April 30, 1952, inspected the revised model of the bust of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be installed at Grand Coulee Dam, and approved it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Oscar L. Chapman,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT I

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts, during their meeting on April 30, 1952, inspected the revised model of the bust of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be installed at Grand Coulee Dam, and approved it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours

Dgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Oscar L. Chapman,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

May 5, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Inspection,
District Building.

At their meeting on April 30, 1952, the Commission of Fine Arts considered Application Number 1486, submitted by you under the requirements of the Shipstead-Luce Act for an advertising sign at the National Theater, 1325 E Street, Northwest. The Commission noted that the new sign is to measure 35 feet in length by 2½ feet in width.

The Commission respectfully advise that their Regulations provide that an advertising sign in the Shipstead-Luce Act area must not exceed 25 square feet, and any new sign would have to comply with such Regulations.

However, the Commission would not object to relocating the old existing illuminated sign on the wall of the building to a place over the entrance of the theater.

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

EXHIBIT J

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

May 5, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Inspection,
Fabrick Building.

At their meeting on April 30, 1954, the Commission of Fine Arts considered Application Number 14564, submitted by you under the requirements of the Shipstead-Luce Act for an advertising sign at the National Theater, 1329 E Street, Northwest. The Commission noted that the new sign is to measure 35 feet in length by 2½ feet in width.

The Commission respectfully advise that their Regulations provide that an advertising sign in the Shipstead-Luce Act area must not exceed 25 square feet, and any new sign would have to comply with such Regulations.

However, the Commission would not object to relocating the old existing illuminated sign on the wall of the building to a place over the entrance of the theater.

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

EXHIBIT 4

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Mr. Bahmer:

In accordance with your letter of March 26th, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, inspected the portrait of R. D. W. Connor, the first Archivist of the United States, by Mrs. Arthur Nash. The Commission approved the portrait.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Robert H. Bahmer,
Acting Archivist of the United States,
General Services Administration,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT K

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

April 30, 1952

Dear Mr. Bahmer:

In accordance with your letter of March 26th, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, inspected the portrait of R. D. W. Connor, the first Archivist of the United States, by Mrs. Arthur Nash. The Commission approved the portrait.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
David E. Finley,

Chairman.

Honorable Robert H. Bahmer,
Acting Archivist of the United States,
General Services Administration,
Washington D. C.

EXHIBIT K

COPY FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

Pottery jar, with lid.
Similar to bronze huo, 42.1.
Chinese, Shang dynasty.

Gilt bronze Buddha.
Chinese, Six Dynasties.

Scroll painting of worthies,
attributed to Wu Tsung-yüan.
Makimono. Chinese, Sung
dynasty.

Round bronze box. Chinese,
T'ang dynasty. Might have
come from Pai-ma-ssu, Honan
province,

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

Feb. 14, 1952 — J. E. Graf, A/Secretary
For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

April 30, 1952 — David E. Finley
For the Commission of Fine Arts

April 21, 1952 — Katharine N. Rhoades
Katharine N. Rhoades

EXHIBIT L

COPY FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katherine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Deed of Gift to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

Pottery jar, with lid.
Similar to bronze jar, K.C.L.
Chinese, Sung dynasty.

Gilt bronze Buddha.
Chinese, Six Dynasties.

Scroll painting of warbirds,
attributed to Wu Tsung-yüan.
Makimono. Chinese, Sung
dynasty.

Round bronze box. Chinese,
Tang dynasty. Might have
come from Yü-men-kuan, Horan
province

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. C. Henley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

Feb. 14, 1932 _____ J. E. Graf, Secretary
For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

April 30, 1932 _____ David L. Finley
for the Commission of Fine Arts

April 21, 1932 _____ Katherine N. Rhoades
Katherine N. Rhoades

EXHIBIT A